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Collection of fees for the medical examination of bus drivers.

*174 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government Surgeon or the Police Surgeon in the city of Madras has collected at any time or is collecting any fees from bus and motor car drivers for their medical examination or re-examination when they apply for licence or renewal thereof;

(b) if so, from what date and at what rate and what is the total collection for each month up to date;

(c) to what account such collections are credited and why; and

(d) under what section or rule of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act or Madras Motor Vehicles Rules such fee was levied and collected?

A.—(a) The Police Surgeon collects fees for the medical examination of professional drivers in the city of Madras.

(b) The rule regarding medical examination came into force on 19th August 1930 and the fee charged is Rs. 2. The Government have no information as to the total collection for each month up to date.

(c) The fees are collected by the Police Surgeon.

(d) Rule 19-A of the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"Is it not the duty of the Government to communicate to Motor Associations and such other bodies as are interested in these matters, any amendments regarding the rules with reference to the medical examination of motor and bus drivers?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"We generally publish these in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. It is open to them to make representations if they have got any."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know who appropriates the fees collected by the Police Surgeon?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"The Police Surgeon."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know whether he is paid or unpaid, or honorary?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"He is a salaried officer."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I ask why the fees collected should not be appropriated by the Government themselves?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"I shall go into this question."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know whether the Police Surgeon has got the business of examining these motor drivers alone or any other business as well?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"He has other business also."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"May I know whether the Government are satisfied that the Police Surgeon is competent to examine a candidate's sight, hearing, etc., which examination would be necessary in the case of bus and motor drivers?"

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "I think so."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"What right has the candidate if the Police Surgeon rejects him? Has he got a right of appeal to a Medical Board?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "I think so, Sir, but I shall enquire."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know whether the Government will call for the total collection of fees he has been making these two years and place it on the table?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"As I have said already I shall go into this question of fees. I am considering it."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether the Police Surgeon is given the privilege of private practice?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "Notice, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know when the consideration of these questions will be over?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "I cannot say."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"For how long has it been under consideration?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "For the last two or three months."

Extension of the proposed amendment of Rule 19-A of the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules to the mufassal.

*175 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government propose to extend the proposed amendment to rule 19-A of the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules to the mufassal as well; and if not, why not?

A.—The question is under the consideration of Government.

Medical examination of motor drivers by the Police Surgeon.

*176 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the total number of (1) motor bus drivers, (2) lorry drivers, (3) taxi drivers, (4) professional drivers of the private cars and (5) gentleman drivers in the City of Madras;

(b) what are the special reasons for the assigning of the medical examination of motor drivers to the Police Surgeon alone; and

(c) whether the Government have declared or held medical certificates issued to drivers by medical practitioners other than the Police Surgeon as unacceptable for the grant of a licence?